

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut
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My name is Chris Jensen and I work for Mainline in Ashford.
I am here today to put a little different spin on this whole banning of OWFs.

Let's turn this around for a second. Tell me what our clean, safe, reliable heating options are for us who live in rural CT. Perhaps OIL, Really? Let's start with...Eleven oil rig workers were blown to smithereens in the Gulf of Mexico last year in a horrific tragedy that has devastated our Gulf for generations to come. Huge magnitudes of Sea life, have already suffered the horrific effects that this spill has caused. It is now posted on the Wall St Journal that the costs are exceeding 39.9 billion dollars with no closure as of now.
UNBELIEVABLE !!

It was the largest spill ever recorded topping out at 4.4 million barrels which is 185 million gallons of oil. WOW !!

Quickly moving along...I have information on just a few of the major oil spills here with me today, including ...the oil tanker blaze that burned and killed 270 people in Tanzania,,,,,the 9 million gallon oil spill in Australia,,,,,the 819,000 gallons that spilled into Lake Michigan,,,,,the 20,000 gallons that spilled into the Kalamazoo River,,,,,the oil barge that sank in the Nile River,,,,,the Strawberry River oil spill,,,,,The Edmonton Creek oil spill,,,,,the 500 gallons that leaked into the Susquehanna River down in Pennsylvania,,,,, the Red Bute oil spill that leaked 33,600 gallons into Salt Lake Cities waterways,,,,, the 98,000 gallons that leaked from an oil barge in Buzzards Bay,,,, and how about the 800,000 gallons of heavy crude into the Talmadge Creek. These are a few from last year. SAFE ??? CLEAN??? EFFICIENT????

Now they question the dispersants used in the gulf and the toxic Chemicals found DEEP at the spill site.

NJ is using \$20,000,000 from a Federal oil spill trust fund (your tax dollars) to restore 200 acres of wetlands from a spill back in 04'.

Did you here about the barge that crashed into the abandoned oil well AFTER the gulf spill? It had well over a mile of oil sheen on the gulfs surface.

Remember the Exxon Valdez? 2.5 billion dollars in damages and a bay that's wildlife has NEVER RECOVERED.

How about the Piper Alpha rig....3.4 billion dollars and killing 167 workers.

The clean-up for the Prestige oil spill topped out at 12 billion .

Can the world survive the impending oil crisis?

Let's talk clean, safe, Natural Gas.....15 people were tragically killed at the Middletown gas plant last year and I'm told that over 50 have yet to return to work due to their injuries.

6 people killed and nearly 50 homes destroyed in San Bruno California when a gas transmission line ruptured last September.

A gas blast rocked Cleburne, Texas last June killing one and seriously wounding 8 more people.

The 3rd largest mobile accessory maker, Foxcom, was forced to shut down their plant in July due to a natural gas leak that caused 150 workers to be hospitalized.

Two homes in Ct were blown off their foundations due to gas leaks in the last couple of years that I can remember.

Get this....Critics say that the regulatory system for underground gas pipes throughout the United States are "Ripe for problems". Many of the underground lines were installed over 50 years ago and are not safe.

Is this the fuel of choice today? It's not safe, it's not carbon neutral, and it's not available to most of rural CT.

THESE ARE PATHETIC DISASTERS THAT HAVE BEEN ALL BUT FORGOTTEN..... WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY battling a young industry that can only END our dependency on these horrible, foreign funded, carbon producing, fossil fuels.

My last point..... someone annoys a neighbor with some wood smoke that occasionally drifts into their yard, this committee goes on a crusade to ban wood burning devices. It is a shame that they can't see, out of their box.